

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 PC-01 AID-05 IO-10 EB-07 OMB-01 FEA-01

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R 282005Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7324

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, TD, XL

SUBJ: PROPOSAL FOR GOTT AID TO THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN

REF: (A) POS 0120; (B) POS 2666, OCTOBER 2, 1974

(BOTH NOTAL)

1. IN A RAMBLING INTERVIEW WITH HIS FAVORITE JOURNALIST JOHN BABB (SECOND HALF OF THAT DESCRIBED IN REF A), PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS SAID THAT THE GOTT HAS BEEN PRESENTED WITH A PROPOSAL FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF RECURRENT AID TO THE LESSER DEVELOPED CARIBBEAN TERRITORIES. ACCORDING TO WILLIAMS, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO WOULD BE THE LARGEST DONOR TO THIS FUND, AND OF THE FOUR OTHER DONORS HE ONLY IDENTIFIED TWO--THE U.K. AND CANADA. THE PRIME MINISTER CITED THIS PROPOSAL AS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW OTHER NATIONS NOW REGARD TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AS A MAJOR OIL PRODUCER. HE COM-

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PLAINED THAT IN THIS PROPOSAL ONE LARGER CARIBBEAN

TERRITORY IS NOT MENTIONED AT ALL AND ANOTHER ONE IS ASKED FOR ONLY 20 PERCENT OF TRINIDAD'S CONTRIBUTION. IN CLOSING HIS REMARKS ON THIS SUBJECT, THE PRIME MINISTER SEEMED TO REJECT THE PROPOSAL BY SAYING, "I DON'T SEE WHY WE SHOULD BE BROTHER-IN-LAW TO THE WORLD".

2. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF A PROPOSAL FOR A FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CONSORTIUM--APPARENTLY SEPARATE FROM THE CDB--TO PROVIDE AID TO THE LESSER DEVELOPED CARIBBEAN TERRITORIES (THE PRIME MINISTER MADE IT CLEAR THAT THIS PROPOSAL HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH LIAT). ALTHOUGH TRINIDAD HAS ALREADY PROVIDED A \$5 MILLION SOFT LOAN TO THE CDB PLUS \$1 MILLION IN OTHER ASSISTANCE TO THE CARIBBEAN LDC'S, AS WELL AS SHORT TERM BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUPPORT FOR JAMAICA AND GUYANA, WE DOUBT THAT THE GOTT WILL BECOME INVOLVED IN THE PROPOSED CONSORTIUM.
MILLER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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